

**FITAPELLI & SCHAFFER, LLP**

Brian S. Schaffer

Dana M. Cimera

28 Liberty Street, 30th Floor

New York, NY 10005

Telephone: (212) 300-0375

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**NICOLE DAVIS, individually and on behalf of  
all others similarly situated,**

**Plaintiff,**

**-against-**

**BANANA REPUBLIC, LLC,**

**Defendant.**

**No: 21-cv-6160**

**CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

Nicole Davis (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, as class representative, upon personal knowledge as to herself, and upon information and belief as to other matters, alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This lawsuit seeks to recover underpayment caused by untimely wage payments and other damages for Plaintiff and similarly situated non-exempt hourly positions such as sales representatives (collectively, “Hourly Workers”) who work or have worked for Banana Republic, LLC (“Banana Republic” or “Defendant”) in New York State.

2. At all relevant times, Defendant has compensated Plaintiff and all other Hourly Workers in New York on a bi-weekly basis.

3. Despite being manual workers, Defendant has failed to properly pay Plaintiff and other Hourly Workers in New York their wages within seven calendar days after the end of the

week in which these wages were earned.

4. In this regard, Defendant has failed to provide timely wages to Plaintiff and all other similarly situated Hourly Workers in New York.

5. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Hourly Workers in New York pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 (“Rule 23”) to remedy violations of the New York Labor Law, Article 6, §§ 190 *et seq.* (“NYLL”).

### **THE PARTIES**

#### **Plaintiff**

##### **Nicole Davis**

6. Nicole Davis (“Davis”) is an adult individual who is a resident of the State of New York.

7. Davis has been employed by Banana Republic as an Hourly Worker since in or around August 2020.

8. Davis is a covered employee within the meaning of the NYLL.

#### **Defendant**

##### **Banana Republic, LLC**

9. Banana Republic, LLC is a foreign business corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware.

10. Banana Republic, LLC’s principal executive office is located at 2 Folsom Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

11. Banana Republic, LLC was and is a covered employer within the meaning of the NYLL, and at all times relevant, employed Plaintiff and similarly situated employees.

12. Banana Republic, LLC has maintained control, oversight, and direction over

Plaintiff and similar employees, including timekeeping, payroll, and other employment practices that applied to them.

13. Banana Republic, LLC applies the same employment policies, practices, and procedures to all Hourly Workers in its operation, including policies, practices, and procedures with respect to payment of wages.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”), codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because the amount in controversy against the Defendant in this matter exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and Plaintiff and the members of the proposed class are citizens of states different from that of Defendant.

15. There are over 100 members in the proposed class.

16. Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in New York.

17. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District, and Defendant conduct business in this District.

### **NEW YORK CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

18. Plaintiff brings the First Cause of Action, an NYLL claim, under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of themselves and a class of persons consisting of:

All persons who work or have worked as Hourly Workers for Banana Republic, LLC between November 4, 2015 and the date of final judgment in this matter (the “New York Class”).

19. The members of the New York Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court.

20. There are more than fifty members of the New York Class.

21. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those claims that could be alleged by any member of the New York Class, and the relief sought is typical of the relief which would be sought by each member of the New York Class in separate actions.

22. Plaintiff and the New York Class have all been injured in that they have been uncompensated, under-compensated, or untimely compensated due to Defendant's common policies, practices, and patterns of conduct. Defendant's corporate-wide policies and practices affected everyone in the New York Class similarly, and Defendant benefited from the same type of unfair and/or wrongful acts as to each member of the New York Class.

23. Plaintiff is able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of the New York Class and has no interests antagonistic to the New York Class.

24. Plaintiff is represented by attorneys who are experienced and competent in both class action litigation and employment litigation and have previously represented many plaintiffs and classes in wage and hour cases.

25. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy – particularly in the context of wage and hour litigation where individual class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit against corporate defendants. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similar persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of efforts and expense that numerous individual actions engender.

26. Common questions of law and fact exist as to the New York Class that predominate over any questions only affecting Plaintiff and/or each member of the New York Class individually and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) whether Defendant correctly compensated Plaintiff and the New York Class on a timely basis.

**PLAINTIFF'S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

27. Consistent with their policies and patterns or practices as described herein, Defendant harmed Plaintiff, individually, as follows:

**Nicole Davis**

28. Davis has been employed at the Banana Republic store located in Brooklyn, New York as an hourly employee since approximately August 2020.

29. During Davis's employment, over twenty-five percent of Davis's duties were physical tasks, including but not limited to: (1) opening, moving, stacking and lifting boxes; (2) stocking shelves and clothing racks; (3) cleaning and organizing fitting rooms; (4) cleaning bathrooms; (5) folding clothes; (6) price tagging clothes and; (7) sweeping the store; (8) cleaning store windows; and (9) standing for long periods of time.

30. Despite regularly spending more than twenty-five percent of her shift performing these physical tasks, Davis has been compensated by Defendant on a bi-weekly basis.

31. For example, for the period beginning on August 15, 2021 through August 28, 2021, Davis was paid her lawfully earned wages on September 1, 2021. *See Exhibit A.*

32. In this regard, Defendant failed to pay Davis her wages earned from August 15, 2021 to August 21, 2021 by August 28, 2021 as required by NYLL § 191(1)(a).

33. As a result of Defendant's untimely wage payments, Davis was underpaid for the period of August 15, 2021 through August 21, 2021, and for every corresponding period where Defendant paid Davis on an untimely basis.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

**New York Labor Law – Failure to Pay Timely Wages  
(Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the New York Class)**

34. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

35. The timely payment of wages provisions NYLL § 191 and its supporting regulations apply to Defendant and protect Plaintiff and the New York Class.

36. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and the New York Class on a timely basis as required by NYLL § 191(1)(a), which resulted in Plaintiff and the New York Class being underpaid.

37. Due to Defendant's violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff and the New York Class are entitled to recover from Defendant the amount of the underpayments caused by their untimely wage payments as liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as provided for by NYLL § 198.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all other similar persons, respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:

- A. Certification of this case as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- B. Designation of Plaintiff as representative of the New York Rule 23 Class and counsel of record as Class Counsel;
- C. Liquidated damages permitted by law pursuant to the NYLL.
- D. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- E. Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action; and

F. Such other relief as this Court shall deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
November 4, 2021

Respectfully submitted,



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*Attorneys for Plaintiff and  
the Putative Class*